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ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report for 1951 is on similar lines to that of 1950.

General Statistics.

The area of the District remains unchanged at 4778 acres.
The number of inhabited houses is 2,403.
Thirty-nine new houses were completed during the year and of these thirty two were built with state assistance and seven were built by private enterprise.
The rateable value is £45,296.
The sum represented by a penny rate is £179.
The population is estimated at 7,459 and this figure is used for estimating the birth and death rate.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

The number of births corrected for inward and outward transfers was 117 of which 58 were males and 59 females. Four of these were still births. Three of the births were illegitimate.

Birth Rate 1951 - 15.7 per thousand per annum.

" " 1950 - 17.9 " " "

" " 1949 - 19.9 " " "

The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1951 - 15.8 per thousand per annum.

Deaths.

The number of deaths corrected for inward and outward transfers was 107 of which fifty seven were males and fifty females.

Death rate 1951 - 14.3 per thousand per annum.

" " 1950 - 11.7 " " "

" " 1949 - 11.9 " " "

The death rate for England and Wales in 1951 - 12.5 per thousand per annum.

Infantile Deaths.

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was one female. There were no deaths amongst illegitimate children.

Infantile Death Rate 1951 - 8.8 per thousand per annum.

" " " 1950 - 7.7 " " "

" " " 1949 - 30.6 " " "

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales 1951 - 29.6 per thousand per annum.

Causes of death at all ages.

Cancer & Malignant Disease	21.	Influenza	7.
Heart Disease	33.	Pneumonia	1.
Other Circulatory Diseases	21.	Prostatic Disease	1.
Bronchitis	3.	Accidents	4.
Other Respiratory Disease	1.	Suicide	1.
Kidney Disease	4.	Other Diseases.	10.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of notifiable infectious diseases, excluding Tuberculosis was 140 as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	21.	Whooping Cough	4.
Measles	106.	Pneumonia	2.
Erysipelas	1.	Dysentery	5.
Meningitis	1.		

No cases of Diphtheria, Infantile Paralysis, Puerperal Fever or Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. A Tuberculosis Officer visits regularly at Alnwick Infirmary where chest X Rays are taken and a chest clinic is held.

Local Health Services.

There is a centre in the town where Ante-natal, Dental and Welfare Clinics are held. The Orthopaedic Clinic is now held at the Infirmary. All these services together with the Ambulance, Nursing and Domestic Health Services are under control of the County Medical Officer. The Infirmary and Fever Hospital take cases from the Urban and other Districts. All these services appear to be functioning satisfactorily.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply.

The quality and quantity of water during the year was satisfactory. Most of the houses in the District have a piped supply. The Senna Wells Scheme is still progressing, but it is not now anticipated to start before 1953.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new sewage works scheme is also progressing satisfactorily.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Meat inspection at the Slaughterhouses is carried out by the Veterinary Surgeon Mr. McPherson. All shops were inspected and any food unfit for human consumption was condemned.

Disinfestation.

Rodent Control was effectively carried out during the year. The Refuse Tip was regularly treated against vermin also the Sewers with satisfactory results. All infestations by other pests were promptly dealt with.

Summary.

Apart from the Influenza Epidemic, at the beginning of the year which caused some deaths and Measles in the early summer, the general health of the District was quite satisfactory.

B. Trevor Roper,
Medical Officer of Health.